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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM NO. 279

9 March 1950

SUBJECT: The West German reaction to the French-Saar
agreement

The bitter reaction of West Germans to the French-Saar agreement of 1 March, strongly expressed by West German political speakers and by the scheduling of a special Bundestag meeting on the subject for 10 March, will adversely affect the realization of US policies designed to further German political and economic integration with Western Europe. During the 10 March Bundestag debates, all parties can be expected to denounce France's Saar policy. Spurred on by extremist spokesmen, the Bundestag may be impelled to assume rigid positions which will greatly increase the difficulty of obtaining West Germany's inclusion in the Council of Europe, a major US objective in Western Europe.

The crystallization of the bitter West German reaction in these debates and in violent political speeches will also affect US interests adversely by: (a) weakening German cooperation with the West, particularly with France; and (b) reducing further the effectiveness of German nationalism as a pro-Western force, to the benefit of the Communist "National Front" campaign which plays on German hopes for national unity.

As a result of these violent German outbursts, French cooperation with Germany in both political and economic matters will be hindered by a revival of the French anti-Teutonic phobia. Moreover, German participation in Western European affairs, except as an inferior partner, will be hampered by this hardened French opinion.

Note: This memorandum has not been coordinated with the intelligence organizations of the Departments of State, Army, Navy, and the Air Force.

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